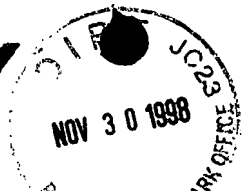


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COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEM THAT DEFINES DEFAULT DOCUMENT FOLDER FOR APPLICATION PROGRAMS

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Technical Field

This invention concerns computers, particularly the file management aspects of computer operating systems.

Background of the Invention

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Personal computers allow users to do an almost unlimited number of tasks. Examples of typical tasks include drafting term papers, resumes, and letters, organizing recipes and addresses, tracking personal checking accounts and stock portfolios, communicating via electronic mail with other computer users, generating blueprints for home improvements, and even making electronic photo albums. To accomplish these and other tasks, the typical computer system includes application programs ---specific sets of instructions--- that work with other components of the computer system to provide specific functions, such as word processing. Application programs are often called software to distinguish from the physical equipment, or hardware, of the computer system.

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More particularly, the typical computer includes a central processing unit, a memory, a set of user-interface devices, and a display. The processing unit generally performs the computations and other data manipulations for performing, or executing, the instructions of application programs. The memory, which may take a variety of forms such as a memory chip or a floppy disk, stores the application programs as well as data generated using the programs. User-interface devices, such as the keyboard and mouse, allow the user to input information into the application programs. For example, a user may input words or commands into the application program by typing on a keyboard, or select options from menus using a mouse or other pointing device. The display, sometimes called a monitor, not only provides a visible representation of application program operations, but also cooperates with the keyboard and mouse to provide a graphical user interface for intuitively interacting with and controlling application programs.

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The typical computer system also includes an operating system --- a special kind of